

Leslie

Sister Grover

English 314

July 11, 2011

Jane Austen: Initiating Feminism One Novel at a Time

Jane Austen's birth in the late 18th century occurred during an intellectual movement most notably known as the Age of Reason or Enlightenment. The French Revolution was in full force in an ~~effort~~ attempt to change the irrational economic, political, and social traditions that were plaguing society. The year 1789 ended the French Revolution as well as the Age of Enlightenment. ~~F and~~ the 1800's began what was known as the Romantic Period, a time when society began to focus more on emotion rather than reason. This was a period of time when people started thinking for themselves instead of being told how and what they should feel. Jane Austen was reared during ~~the Romantic time period~~ this time where her feminist ideas contributed to the ever-changing world around her. Her perspective and ideas on the moral nature of women, marriage, and the societal roles of women made her an authority as a writer on feminist traditions, and even in death her work ~~is continuing~~ continues to empower the women of the 21st century.

Jane Austen had the advantage of being reared during a time when feminist writers had already begun forging the way for women. Mary Wollstonecraft, an early 18th century feminist writer, had written several works on what she believed were the feminist traditions that needed to be changed in order to strengthen the role of the women. Wollstonecraft, although unmarried, was extremely outspoken on the importance of marriage, education, and motherhood in an effort attempt to improve the character of women during this time. Jane Austen was at the height of

Comment [J1]: Love how you changed your title! Much more engaging!

Comment [J2]: Maybe give some examples? Are there any of these that are particularly relevant to Jane Austen or her works? If so, that would be a great detail to add in!

Comment [J3]: After reading your entire paper, I don't remember you ever discussing this anywhere, so you might consider either removing this detail from your thesis or emphasizing it throughout your paper.

Comment [J4]: When possible, try to avoid using what are called "to be" verbs, also known as helping verbs, such as am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been, have, has, had, do, does, did, may, might, must, can, could, shall, should, will, and would. Try to use active verbs whenever you can to make your writing less wordy and so it has a better flow. I don't remember you doing this very much, but it's an important trick I was taught about writing a few years ago (this works for any kind of writing, whether it's technical, professional, or creative) and I thought I'd share the knowledge with you!

Comment [J5]: Your introduction is much much improved from last time, and I still really like how structured and concise your thesis is! Very impressive!

Comment [J6]: Did you get this information from a source?

Comment [J7]: Source?

womanhood at sixteen years old when Wollstonecraft's book, *A Vindication on the Rights of Women*, was published. Wollstonecraft clearly portrays in her book that women should not only be able to fulfill their moral responsibilities of being a wife and mother, but that they should be educated in order to contribute to society. Her main emphasis was that the role of the woman in their current state of marriage was causing a lack of development in their individual mind and character, making them comparable to that of a dying flower:

The conduct and manners of women, in fact, evidently prove that their minds are not in a healthy state; for, like the flowers that are planted in too rich a soil, strength and usefulness are sacrificed to beauty; and the flaunting leaves, after pleasing a fastidious eye, fade, disregarded on the stalk, long before the season when they ought to have arrived at maturity. (Wollstonecraft 7)

Jane Austen's portrayal of feminist traditions was ~~as~~ not so political or as sensationalized as Wollstonecraft's, but her works definitely placed the woman as having significance in society.

Austen was not as outspoken on the role of women or feminist traditions as her predecessor.

However, she didn't have to be. Austen was able to use her voice through pen to represent her personal ideals on women. Margaret Kirkham explains that, "The moral nature of Woman, and the rights and duties of individual woman were not subjects much attended to in the philosophic treatise, but they could not be avoided in the novel" (14). Jane Austen's ability to express her views on the moral nature of the woman and their rights was accomplished through her novels.

Margaret Kirkham further explains that "as readers, women were able to participate in the moral debate presented in the novel" (14). Austen's four main novels portray her significance of womanhood by involving, "heroines that are able to expand their degree of self-knowledge,

Comment [J8]: I still feel that a direct quotation from the book would be appropriate here.

Comment [J9]: I love this quote! It is a great segway into Jane Austen's writing. I do think that you need some kind of concluding sentence for this paragraph, though, where you make the connection between this quote and what Jane Austen writes about.

Comment [J10]: Once you first introduce an author, you can refer to them just by their last name.

Comment [J11]: This is a great quote, but you need a sentence afterward that "grounds" it in your paper, explaining its significance to what you are saying.

reaffirm their integrity, and demonstrate their capacity for individual thought and action” (Myers 228).

Austen’s novels have a fascination with the woman finding love, a theme that she began writing about as an adolescent, which led to her to being able to express her views on the feminist tradition. Her father, George Austen, established an environment of learning in his home and tutored Austen during her youth, instilling in her a great love for writing her own poetry and plays. At the age of fourteen, she authored the work, *Love and Friendship*, one of her first satire’s written as a novel through the form of letters. Her main character, Laura, portrays a worldly woman with a free spirit that who lets her emotions rule her mind. Even before Wollstonecraft’s book was published, Austen was using her writings to express her views on gender roles and continued to portray them through her novels. She refers to them as, “the writer’s celebrations of the strong feelings that make heroines swoon” (Norton 515). She agrees with Wollstonecraft’s frustrations that, “culture makes women slaves to their emotions . . . blown about by every momentary gust of feeling” (515). Austen used sensibility in order to portray emotion within her novels and create a harmonious balance within her novels.

Marriage in the 19th century eliminated the human rights of women and allowed the patriarchy of men to use women to their advantage; however, women were still in want to be married in order to avoid spinsterhood and provide them with financial security. Charlotte Perkins Gillman, author of *Women and Economics*, states, “The pressure under this one was an economic one. The girl must marry, how else live? The prospective husband prefers the girl who knows nothing. He is the market, the demand. She is the supply” (qtd. in Frost 263). Elizabeth’s rejection of Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* should have resulted in Elizabeth facing the life of poverty and spinsterhood because she defied the role of the woman in society

Comment [J12]: You want to try to avoid ending a paragraph with a quotation because a quotation always needs 1-2 sentences following it where you explain what the quote means in relation to the argument you are making. But I’m really happy to see you using so many more quotations from your sources! It really adds depth to your arguments!

Comment [J13]: This is very wordy, so you might consider re-writing it to make it more streamlined.

Comment [J14]: It feels like there is a disconnect between these two thoughts. They both make very good and interesting statements, but it feels like there is a transition missing between them.

Comment [J15]: I love this part! It feels like it could be fleshed out a little more, but that could just be because I’m very interested in what you’re saying here.

Comment [J16]: Do you have a source for this? This is a very bold statement, otherwise, and one people might contend if you don’t have anything to back it up. You might want to tone it down here until you get further into your paragraph where you do have sources that talk about this.

Comment [J17]: This reads a little off to me, but I don’t know why.

Comment [J18]: This is such a great quote that it deserves a little more time spent on it, or you could make a great connection between what this quote says to what you say about Elizabeth in the next sentence.

by declining the offer of marriage. ~~Instead, Rather,~~ Austen portrays the feminist side of Elizabeth, allowing her emotions to overcome her reason. Through her own emotions, she eventually realizes that she does love Mr. Darcy ~~him~~ and accepts Mr. Darcy's ~~his~~ proposal for marriage. The female characters in ~~her~~ Austen's novels have been created so that many of them experience a deep emotional love before accepting marriage; therefore, Austen not only ~~accomplishes~~ ~~portrays~~ the role of women as being financially secure, but she ~~also~~ ~~accomplishes~~ ~~the role of incorporating~~ ~~incorporates~~ feminism into her novels by letting the woman's emotions lead to her own decisions.

Comment [J19]: This sounds a bit like plot summary, so you might consider including quotations from the novel itself. Also, why include this information? Spend a sentence or two explaining what is significant about these details from Austen's novel.

Comment [J20]: You need to be careful about pronouns. The rule of the English language is that a pronoun refers to the most recent noun that was used, so it sounds here like it is Elizabeth's novels rather than Austen's novels.

Austen had a strong desire to define her own social status as independent. Mary Wollstonecraft admonishes, "Independence ought to stem from reason rather than property and that woman, like all humans irrespective of their rank in the current society owe their first duty to themselves as rational creatures" (Handler 703). ~~Austen~~ ~~She~~ created ~~her~~ female protagonists ~~who~~ ~~owing~~ their first duty to themselves with personalities that ~~were~~ ~~are~~ independent of other's' decisions. Richard Handler, ~~in~~ ~~referring~~ to Jane Austen's time, states, "To be independent is to be governed by one's own will . . . to have power to make choices and to be governed by those choices alone" (692). In Austen's texts, a dependent women is portrayed as being reliant upon superior beings, usually the male. Handler continues to state that, "A person dependent upon another . . . is not fully a person in his or her own right, in this sense, to be ~~dependent~~" is to be incomplete" (692). ~~Jane Austen~~ wanted her female characters to ~~be~~ independent in order to maintain social hierarchy.

Comment [J21]: Independent of men?

Comment [J22]: Another wonderful quote, but why include it? Why is it important? Whenever you include a quotation, paraphrase, or summary, you also have to include an explanation of why you used those in your paper. Like *The Craft of Research* says, you need to answer the question of "So what?"

Comment [J23]: Another note about sources. Almost every time you have a quotation, you incorporate it in exactly the same way, stating the name of the author and then including the quote. It would make your paper sound more professional and have better flow if you included variety in how you integrate quotes in. If I remember right, *The Craft of Research* has a list of a few different ways to handle quotes.

Comment [J24]: Whenever you have a quote inside quotations, you have to change the inside quote so it has single quotations instead of double ones.

Comment [J25]: This is the most interesting thing you say in this paragraph, and I think it would be wise to restructure the paragraph so this is the topic sentence, and then rewrite the paragraph as needed. As interesting as it is that Austen wanted to be independent herself, it doesn't have a lot to do with your thesis.

Comment [J26]: Sources?

A wife in the early 19th century was dependent upon the man and was not allowed to have any occupation other than being a wife. In the 18th century, once a woman was married she was independent of her father, but then dependent upon her husband. However, the change is

considered to be a step up in society; -“The relative independence of a wife, as the “mistress of the family,” is the highest situation that a woman can aspire to . . . for women have no means, other than marriage to establish themselves” (Handler 694). Austen knew that she could not be considered both a writer and a wife. Once a woman became a wife, they no longer had the liberty of ~~to making~~ make their own decisions, ~~or~~ work outside the home, ~~and in or in Jane’s Austen’s~~ case, inside the home as an author. “Patriarchal society regarded her manifestation-of-self through writing as an attempt to vitiate the domestic sphere, the married woman’s “proper” territory” (Frost 256). Her inferior sense of already being a female and a writer led her to keep her name from being printed on her first published works. She instead had her works published under ~~the title by~~ “a lady”. It wasn’t until after her death in 1841 that the community became aware that Jane Austen was the “lady” who wrote the novels.

Comment [J27]: You can never include a quote that is “by itself,” meaning it is in a sentence all its own. However, by including a colon at the end of your last sentence, it makes the quotation work the way you have it.

Comment [J28]: Integrate

Comment [J29]: So again, how does this connect back to your thesis?

Jane Austen’s women were portrayed as being in want of love and romance in their courtships; however, social class continued to overrule their emotions. Once a woman married, they received their husband’s financial estate, and their social rank usually changed from single with a low income to middle or upper class, which was the status that all women and their mothers wanted. Such is the case in *Pride and Prejudice* when Mrs. Bennett is about to lose her estate and wants only one thing for her daughters; a marriage that protects them from poverty. Elizabeth rejects Mr. Darcy’s initial proposal for marriage, unaware of his financial status. She later visits Pemberley where Mr. Darcy lives and becomes smitten with the beauty of the grounds. Austen is showing that Elizabeth wasn’t really fond of Mr. Darcy until she seen his grounds at Pemberley; “Elizabeth’s admiration for Pemberley occurs simultaneously with, and becomes emblematic of, her new found admiration for Darcy and suggests Austen endorsement of a marriage based on romantic and materialistic foundations” (Frost 264). Elizabeth

Comment [J30]: Source?

Comment [J31]: Quotation?

Comment [J32]: I don’t know if you can say this without some more very solid evidence from the text. Though, as the quote following indicates, she many not have understood completely her connection with Mr. Darcy, she did already have at least some feelings for him already. Your statement here kind of undermines what you are trying to say in your paper because you make Elizabeth out to have only married Mr. Darcy for his wealth, which isn’t true.

confirms that her love for Mr. Darcy began when she visited Pemberley. She states, “I believe I must date it from my first seeing his beautiful grounds at Pemberley” (Austen 197).

Jane Austin had good reason to have concerns with motherhood ~~due to being~~ having been placed in a foster home in ~~her~~ infancy and spending five childhood years in boarding schools. Jane Austen, the seventh of eight children, was like the rest of her brothers and sisters who were also placed in a foster home until her mother felt she could take care of them. Austen was also sent to several different boarding schools beginning at the age of six with her eight-year-old sister Cassandra. Austen and Cassandra, were inseparable as girls, and their mother believed that sending them to school together would be in their best interest.

Austen’s absence from home as a young girl made it impossible for her to experience motherhood, and the loss of time with her mother contributed to their estranged relationship. She shared a close relationship with her sister which permitted her to share more confidences and secrets with her sister than her mother. Austen lacked her own mother’s stabilizing presence and has allowed her own conscious to make her decisions against marriage and motherhood.

Austen’s novels end at marriage instead of continuing into the setting of married life or motherhood. As Margaret Moore says of the relationship, she sees, “a ~~“cynical”~~ misogynist who hates being dependent ~~on?~~ love and sex (due to a poor relationship with her mother) and who dislikes children because (envy of the maternal role is to be expected in a childless woman)” (Brown 323). A lack of an emotional attachment to her mother contributed to her avoidance of motherhood and enabled a close companionship with her sister that caused neither of them to marry.

In Lloyd Brown’s opinion, “Austen seems to think very little of being in a marriage relationship in order to maintain a socially sanctified and self-justifying goal” (336). In her

Comment [J33]: The way you phrase this makes it sound as if you are continuing a thought from the last paragraph, but this is the first time you have mentioned anything about motherhood.

Comment [J34]: How does this connect back to your thesis? I’m not necessarily saying this isn’t relevant, but you spend way too much time recording Austen’s childhood, and most of it doesn’t have anything to do with what your paper is about. This information would best serve you more spread out through your paper rather than chunked all together like this. For example, you could say something about Austen’s close relationship with her sister and how that connects with Elizabeth and Jane in *Pride and Prejudice*. Or you could sum all this up in a sentence, that Austen did not have a mother growing up, and then move on to how that affected her portrayal of marriage and motherhood in her novels.

Comment [J35]: Which relationship?

Comment [J36]: You actually sum the last two paragraphs up in this single sentence, which I think works better for your purposes because it will keep your paper more focused on your thesis.

Comment [J37]: You need a topic sentence before you launch right into this quote.

novel *Emma*, Austen portrays a very different role in marriage and in the personality of her female character. Emma, financially well-off, ~~and~~ has no need to marry in order to gain financial security, ~~is~~ unlike past submissive characters of Austen's. Emma is a misbehaving woman who makes it well-known that she has no need for marriage or for love: "I have never been in love; it is not my way, or my nature" (Goodheart 602). Emma's character fits the life of Austen and her same opinion of marriage. However, Austen ~~has marries~~ Emma ~~marry~~ anyways and "happily ever after" is believed to be the ending for the couple. "The community at the end is ideally organized or reorganized in a way that makes for happiness. It is a morally as well as a socially hierarchical world constituted by Emma and Knightley at its pinnacle" (602). Feminists have shown, "hostility toward the institution of marriage that may confuse the issue of whether Emma's marriage at the end is self-fulfillment or self-betrayal" (602).

Jane Austen's novels empowered women in the next century to continue to write for the social equality of women. Virginia Woolf, born in 1882 at the end of the Romantic period, studied the works of 18th century authors in-depth and was well aware of Jane Austen and her novels emphasizing womanhood. Woolf declares, "Jane Austen is thus a mistress of much deeper emotion than appears on the surface.... Think away the surface animation, the likeness to life, and there remains to provide a deeper pleasure, an exquisite determination of human values" (Langland 44). Virginia's novel, *A Room of One's Own*, focuses on ~~the~~ female literary traditions and expresses her views that ~~a womaen~~ needs a room of their own in order to write whatever she pleases. Her novel speaks in behalf of Austen who had to write in a one room setting and hide her works when company came. "Without boasting or giving pain to the opposite sex, one may say that *Pride and Prejudice* is a good book. At any rate, one would not have been ashamed to have been caught in the act of writing *Pride and Prejudice*" (80).

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Comment [J38]: This is very well-done! Your paper is the most interesting and organized when you are structuring your paragraphs around some specific aspect in Austen's written works, and when you perform literary analysis to prove your point. You might want to consider restructuring your paper so it is more centered around Austen's works and analyzing them than Austen herself. Come to think of it, I think that's actually part of the requirements for this research paper.

Comment [J39]: The way you have this written, it sounds like Jane Austen herself actually physically marries Emma, which definitely doesn't sound right...

Comment [J40]: Integrate

Comment [J41]: Which feminists? And who is the author of your source? Their name should be included in your citation.

Comment [J42]: Needs a concluding sentence

Comment [J43]: This is a great topic sentence because it refers directly back to your thesis statement. If you can get all your topic sentences to do that, your paper will have better structure and feel more organized and fluid.

Comment [J44]: Integrate, and a concluding sentence is needed. However, I think this is one of the best paragraphs in your entire paper because it has focus and you really know exactly what you want to say. Good job!

Not all 19th century feminist authors ~~received~~ accepted Austen's work ~~with acceptance~~, such as Charlotte Brontë, who felt that she had more differences than similarities to Austen.

After reluctantly reading *Pride and Prejudice*, she critiques Austen's work as, "a carefully fenced, highly cultivated garden, with neat borders and delicate flowers; but no glance of a bright, vivid physiognomy, no open country, no fresh air, no blue hill, no bonny beck" (Weiser 94). She sees romantic structure, but without the full, heart throbbing, blood flowing passion.

However, George Lewes defends Austen: ~~by saying,~~

"There are heights and depths in human nature Miss Austen never scaled or fathomed, there are worlds of passionate existence into which she has never set foot; but . . . she has risked no failures by attempting to delineate that which she has not seen. Her circle may be restricted, but it is complete." (9)

Austen's final novel entitled *Persuasion* was written just before her death in 1817, when ~~the her~~ culture was just beginning to experience the changes of the Romantic Period and society was letting their emotions overrule reason. In this novel, Austen powerfully incorporates her strong feminist beliefs through Anne Elliott's character. Anne forms her own opinions based on

~~her~~ emotions that are persuaded by a close friend, rather than her own reasoning:

"Persuasion explores the shifting of meanings over time, as in the meaning of Anne's early refusal of Wentworth by the advice of Lady Russell, advice which, while it initially seems misguided and Anne's yielding to it a profound source of regret, Anne finally determines "is only good or bad as the event decides—that is in retrospect she was right in yielding."

(Rohrbach 743): Reason is portrayed through her parent's selection and approval of Mr. Wentworth as a husband and emotion is portrayed through

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Comment [J45]: This sentence integrates the quote beautifully, making it a part of your paper rather than an attachment to it. This is a great example of how to integrate quotations smoothly into your writing!

Comment [J46]: When introducing a block quotation, you're supposed to write a complete sentence that grounds the quotation that ends in a colon to lead into the quotation. I'm not sure why that's how you're supposed to do it, I only know that's how it's done.

Comment [J47]: Needs a concluding sentence or two following this block quotation.

Comment [J48]: Not quite the right word choice here...

Comment [J49]: Make sure you're doing your block quotes correctly. You can find instructions for how to do block quotations on page 94 in our MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers textbook.

her rejection of him. Anne eventually determines through her own conscious that she was right to wait.

Comment [J50]: Is this part of your block quote or your own writing? If it's part of the quote, you need to move the citation to the end of this chunk and add a concluding sentence afterward, but if it's your own writing, you just need to reformat it so it is not indented an inch on the left like the block quote.

Jane's Austen's work was buried with her death and it wasn't until decades later that her works were revisited and realized to be relevant to the female women writers of the 20th century.

Female-women and female authors today agree with Joanne Wilkes, when she quotes in quoting Anne Thackeray, she writes,

Austen is one of those who can 'raise and ennoble all those who follow after, -- true, gentle and strong and tender' because she teaches the lesson: Don't let us despise our nests . . . let us gather twigs and the little scraps of moss, of dried grass together; and see result! – a whole, completed and coherent, beautiful even without the song. (Wilkes 154)

Comment [J51]: All three of your block quotations are very relevant and tie into your paper very well, but you use all three one after the other. This causes the reader to lose your voice in your paper, meaning your paper starts being run by your sources rather than by you. Also, since they're all right at the end of your paper, it sort of looks like you threw them in at the end in an attempt to reach the page requirement, which I'm sure isn't the case, but it does look like that. Block quotes should be used sparingly, so I would suggest you look over each quote and decide if you really need the entire quote, or if you can convey the same message with only part of it. For example, as much as I love this quote, you could get away with just using "Austen is one of those who can 'raise and ennoble all those who follow after, -- true, gentle and strong and tender'" and it doesn't affect the message you wanted to convey.

Jane Austen's novels continue to inspire readers today, and her popularity never seems to diminish. Her novels continue to be sold, and today's authors have made an effort created sequels in an attempt to carry on her stories. Her novels have been modernized into award-winning movies and miniseries. However, in Mary Poovey's opinion, "We know little more about Jane Austen today than readers knew in 1871 when *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, was published or in 1818 when *A Memoir of Jane Austen*, was published, but we are beginning to know her differently" (9).

Comment [J52]: This paragraph is really really short, and it also lacks a strong concluding sentence.

Austen didn't did not write her novels to receive any payment, she wrote to fulfill a purpose. Her novels were written at an important time in history when courtship for the woman was important due to the impact of social identity with marriages being portrayed as having "ownership" of the woman. Her novels gave her authority on difficult subjects that could not be avoided. In her effort to portray women as "female," she empowered feminist authors into the

Comment [J53]: Are all these commas in the original quote? They are used incorrectly, so you might want to double check just to be sure.

Comment [J54]: This paragraph is also super short and needs a concluding sentence to answer the question "So what?" about everything you said in your paragraph (which is actually the purpose of having a concluding sentence).

Comment [J55]: You never mentioned this in your paper, so it doesn't make sense for you to mention it in your conclusion paragraph.

Comment [J56]: This is very wordy, which makes it a bit confusing.

Comment [J57]: What do you mean by "authority"? And what could not be avoided?

19th and 20th centuries, as well as today. Mary Poovey states, “Through her irony and skillful manipulation of point of view, Jane Austen developed artistic strategies that ‘resolved’ some of the most debilitating ideological contradictions of this period of chaotic change” (Poovey xvii).

Comment [J58]: Not only should you not end a paragraph with a quotation, you doubly shouldn't do so at the end of your conclusion paragraph. It's uncommon but not unheard of to include quotations in your conclusion, but you need to remember that your conclusion paragraph is basically the summary of everything you were trying to prove in your paper. It's helpful to look back at your introduction paragraph, and especially your thesis, for inspiration on what you should say here. Just keep in mind that you're answering that irritating question of “So what?” and you should have no problems whipping out a fantastic conclusion!

Works Cited

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Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature Vol. 10, No. 2 (Autumn, 1991), pp. 253-271 Published by: [University of Tulsa](#)

Jane Austen and the Feminist Tradition Lloyd W. Brown *Nineteenth-Century Fiction* Vol. 28, No. 3 (Dec., 1973), pp. 321-338

"Early Feminist Writings." *Carolyn G. Heilbrun*. Julia B. Boken. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1988. 33-57. Twayne's United States Authors Series 672. *Gale Virtual Reference Library*. Web. 2 July 2011.

Can This Marriage Be Saved: Jane Austen Makes Sense of an Ending Karen Newman *ELH* Vol. 50, No. 4 (Winter, 1983), pp. 693-710

Womanhood in Jane Austen's Novels Sylvia H. Myers *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* Vol. 3, No. 3 (Spring, 1970), pp. 225-232

Women Reviewing Women in Nineteenth-Century Britain : The Critical Reception of Jane Austen Charlotte Bronte and George Elliot. Wilkes, Joanne Pages: 194 Publisher: Ashgate Publishing Group

Location: Farnham, Surrey, GBR Date Published: 04/2010

Comment [J59]: As I'm sure you're aware, your Works Cited is not in MLA format, but that's easy enough to fix! My favorite resource is [easybib.com](#), but you can also use *the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* that was required for this class.

Leslie,

I'm really impressed with the progress you've made since your last submission! I like what you have here and I like what you are trying to say. I also appreciate that you really tried to use your sources as much as possible, even going back and adding in quotations in the first half of your paper. Overall, this is really good. I do have some more suggestions for you, however, that will hopefully help you make your paper fantastic! My biggest concern is actually with your use of quotations. It might be helpful to you to re-read the section in *The Craft of Research* that talks about how to handle quoting sources in your paper. You want to make sure that you have variety in how you integrate your quotes as well as how you use your sources, so create a good balance between quotations, paraphrasing, and summary. Also, make sure you always spend at least one if not two sentences explaining the quote/paraphrase/summary and basically justifying why that quote is important, why you included it in your paper. Unless you do this, your paper becomes more like a string of other people's words/ideas with hardly any of your words/ideas, which is not what your readers want to see. We want to read what you have to say about the topic, and only want other sources in your paper to support your ideas.

My second suggestion is for you to consider restructuring your paper. The last few pages are very focused, to the point, and organized because they have specific purpose, but much of your paper seems sort of fuzzy where the organization is lacking and the focus is confusing. I think it's because you don't follow the organization you laid out in your thesis where you promise readers you'll write about these things in the following order:

1. perspective and ideas on the moral nature of women
2. marriage
3. the societal roles of women
4. her work continues to empower the women of the 21st century

If you can make this structure/organization more clear by referring directly back to your thesis in the topic sentence of most if not all of your paragraphs, your paper will be much easier and more enjoyable to read because your readers will understand where you are going.

The more minor things I noted throughout your paper, though I do want to quickly mention here that you need to make sure you're using the correct form of "woman"- "woman" for singular and "women" for plural. You mix those up numerous times throughout, though I tried to fix them when I noticed. Otherwise, though it might take some more work to get it to the level of fabulous, I'm really excited to read your final draft of your paper! You're a great writer and this paper has very good potential, so I wish you luck as you finish this up!

~Jessica DeLand